THE

BISHOP of *EXETER*'s

ANSWER, &c.

(Price Two-pence.)

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K. Lawrence (9)

THE BISHOP of EXETER's ANSWER TO Mr. J. WESLEY's LATE LETTER To his LORDSHIP.

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Printed for JOHN and PAUL KNAPTON, in *Ludgate-Street*.
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TO

Mr. *J. Weſley*'s late Letter to his Lordſhip.

SIR,

YOU have hereby my Thanks for the *Preſent* you lately ſent me of "*A ſecond Letter to* "*the Author of the* Enthuſiaſm "*of Methodiſts and Papiſts compared.*" To this you have prefixed an Epiſtle (I know not whether to call it *Preface* or *Dedication*) "*To the Right Reverend the Lord* "*Biſhop of* Exeter." And, as it relates to a Matter of Fact, concerning ſome Part of your Behaviour, publiſhed *on my Authority*; which you have endeavoured to

 falſify

falſify by an *irreconcileably different Account*, publiſhed by yourſelf; — I ſhall give a plain and ſatisfactory Anſwer.

To this End it will be neceſſary to tranſcribe *your own Words* from your *firſt Paragraph*:

'My Lord, I was grieved when I read 'the following Words in the Third Part 'of the Enthuſiaſm of *Methodiſts* and '*Papiſts* compared. 'A ſenſible, honeſt "Woman told the *Biſhop of Exeter*, in "Preſence of ſeveral *Witneſſes*, that Mr. "*John Weſley* came to her Houſe and "queſtioned her, Whether ſhe had an "*Aſſurance of her Salvation?* Her Anſwer "was, That ſhe *hoped* ſhe ſhould be "ſaved, but had no abſolute *Aſſurance* of "it. Why then, replied he, *you are in* "*Hell*; *you are damned already*. This ſo "terrified the poor Woman, who was "then with Child, that ſhe was grievouſly "afraid of miſcarrying, and could not, in "a long Time, recover her right Mind. "For this, and the *Methodiſts* aſking her "to live upon Free-Coſt, ſhe determined "to admit no more of them into her "Houſe.' So much is *her own Account* 'to his Lordſhip, on whoſe Authority 'it is here publiſhed.'

This,

This, I confeſs, was publiſhed *on my Authority*; 'tis very true; and you will preſently ſee it fully atteſted.

Your *ſecond* Paragraph ſtands thus: 'This renewed the Concern I felt ſome 'Time ſince, when I was informed (in 'Letters which I have ſtill by me) of your 'Lordſhip's publiſhing this Account, both 'at *Plymouth* in *Devonſhire*, and at *Truro* 'in *Cornwall*, before the Clergy aſſembled 'from all Parts of thoſe Counties, at the 'ſolemn Seaſon of your Lordſhip's viſit-'ing your Dioceſe. But I was *not in-'formed* that your Lordſhip ſhewed a deep 'Concern for the Honour of God, which 'you ſuppoſed to be ſo dreadfully violated, 'or a tender Compaſſion for a Preſbyter 'whom you believed to be ruſhing into 'everlaſting Deſtruction.'

Had you thought fit, Sir, to publiſh thoſe Letters (which, you ſay, you have by you) with the reſpective *Dates*, and *Names* of the Writers; it might have been conſidered what Credit the Contents deſerved. At preſent, allowing what you was informed of to be *true*, that I gave this Account to my *Clergy at the ſolemn Seaſon of my Viſitation*; I deſire to know, What Seaſon could be more proper for

adviſing the *Clergy to take Heed to their Flock*, and put them upon their Guard againſt *Deluſion?*

But, it ſeems, I am to anſwer too for what you was *not informed* of, 'that I 'ſhewed a deep Concern for the Honour 'of God, *&c.*' — I hope I ſhewed *ſome* Concern in cautioning againſt a ſtrange and pernicious Diſpenſation. But are *you* ſure that you know the *Secrets of my Heart*, of which you was *not informed*, 'that I '*ſuppoſed* the Honour of God to be *ſo* '*dreadfully violated*, and that I *believed* 'you to be ruſhing into *everlaſting De-* '*ſtruction?*'

By the Way, Sir, let me adviſe you not *always* to pin your Faith upon your *Weſtern Correſpondents*. You may remember how grievouſly *ſome* of them impoſed upon the *Leaders of Methodiſm*, by tranſmitting to *London a notoriouſly falſe Account* of my Charge to the Clergy at my Viſitation. And immediately a *Pamphlet* comes out, with a fine *Encomium upon Methodiſm*, as contained in that *Charge*. This *Falſhood* I was obliged to contradict by a *public Advertiſement*. The *Methodiſts*, by as *public an Advertiſement*, confeſſed themſelves to have been deceived, and that the *Biſhop of Exeter was no Friend*

to

to the Methodiſts. And yet, ſome Time afterwards, the *Methodiſts at Cork in Ireland*, your *own Brother* at the Head of them, *reprinted* the ſame *lying Pamphlet* as my Performance; and thereby (for no Matter by *what Artifices Methodiſm prevails)* ſome Degree of Credit was gained to *your Sect*, as having its Cauſe eſpouſed by an *Engliſh Biſhop*. Your *Brother* being aſked, 'How 'he could do ſuch a Thing, as to reprint 'ſuch an Account, as Part of the *Biſhop 'of Exeter's Charge*, after he had pub-'lickly diſavowed it, and the *Methodiſts* 'themſelves confeſſed they had been de-'ceived? — he either could not, or would 'not, offer a ſingle Word in Anſwer.' This Account I had from the Mouth of the very Perſon who aſked your *Brother* the Queſtion.

But to return. In your *Third and Fourth Paragraphs* we have your *Confutation of my Account* of my Diſcourſe with Mrs. *Morgan*, in the following Words:

'In order to be more fully informed, on 'Saturday, *Auguſt* 25, 1750, Mr. *Trem-'bath* of *St. Gennys*, Mr. *Haines* of *Shaftſ-'bury*, and *I*, called at Mr. *Morgan*'s at 'Mitchel. The Servant telling me her 'Maſter was not at home, I deſired to ſpeak

" with

'with her Miſtreſs, the 'honeſt, ſenſible
"Woman.' I immediately aſk'd, 'Did I
"ever tell you or your Huſband, that you
"would be damn'd, if you took any
"Money of me? (So the Story ran in
'the Firſt Part of the Compariſon: It has
'now undergone a very conſiderable Al-
'teration) 'Or you or he ever affirm (ano-
'ther Circumſtance related at *Truro*) 'that
"I was rude with your Maid?' She re-
'plied vehemently, 'Sir, I never ſaid you
"was, or that you ſaid any ſuch Thing.
"And I don't ſuppoſe my Huſband did.
"But we have been belied as well as our
"Neighbours.' She added, 'When the
"Biſhop came down laſt, he ſent us
"Word, that he would dine at our
"Houſe. But he did not, being invited
"to a neighbouring Gentleman's. He ſent
"for me thither, and ſaid 'Good Wo-
"man, do you know theſe People that
"go up and down? Do you know Mr.
"*Weſley?* Did not he tell you, you
"would be damn'd, if you took any
"Money of him? And did not he offer
"Rudeneſs to your Maid?' I told him,
"No, my Lord. He never ſaid any
"ſuch Thing to me, nor to my Huſ-
"band that I know of. He never offer'd
"any Rudeneſs to any Maid of mine.
"I never ſaw or knew any Harm by
"him. But a Man told me once (who,

"I was

" I was told, was a Methodiſt-Preacher) " that I ſhould be damned, if I did not " know my Sins were forgiven."

' This is *her own Account* given to me. ' And an Account it is, irreconcileably ' different (notwithſtanding ſome ſmall ' Reſemblance in the laſt Circumſtance) ' from that ſhe is affirm'd to have given ' your Lordſhip. Whether ſhe did give ' that Account to your Lordſhip or no, ' your Lordſhip knows beſt. That the ' Comparer affirms it, is no Proof at all; ' ſince he will affirm any thing that ſuits ' his Purpoſe.'

Whatever Regard may be due to *this Account* in general, let me obſerve a *Miſtake*, or two. I neither ſent Word that I would dine at their Houſe; nor did I ſend for Mrs. *Morgan* to the *neighbouring Gentleman's* where I did dine. Every Word that paſſed between us was at her *own Houſe at Mitchel*. Nor did I ever ſee the Woman, either before or ſince. Mrs. *Morgan* muſt needs know this: And there is certainly a Want of Exactneſs *ſomewhere*. But, *where* the Miſtake lies, either in this, or any other Part of her *Account*, which, you ſay, was *given to you*, I neither know, nor care. The following *Atteſtations* will ſufficiently clear *me* from

any

any Imputation, or even Suſpicion, of having publiſhed a Falſhood.

'In the Month of *June*, or *July*, 'in 1748, We, whoſe Names are under-'written, attended the Right Reverend 'the Lord Biſhop of *Exeter* in his Pri-'mary Viſitation of the County of *Corn-'wall*. In our Return from *Penryn*, his 'Lordſhip and we (after having dined 'with the Reverend Dr. *Stackhouſe* in the 'Pariſh of *Probus* near *Truro*) baited at a 'Public-Houſe at *Mitchel*, kept by one '*Morgan*, who happened at that Time 'not to be at Home. His Lordſhip, 'having before receiv'd a well-atteſted 'Account, that Mr. *Weſley* the Metho-'diſt-Preacher had been there guilty of 'ſome unjuſtifiable Behaviour, took this 'Opportunity to enquire of Mr. *Morgan*'s 'Wife, what Truth there was in the In-'formation of this Kind, which his Lord-'ſhip had received. Her Anſwer was, "That Mr. *Weſley* being at her Houſe "ſome Time before had taken Occaſion to "aſk her, Whether or no ſhe was ſure "of her Salvation?' She anſwer'd, 'She "could not ſay ſhe was abſolutely ſure of "it; but ſhe hoped ſhe ſhould be ſaved, "as well as other Chriſtians.' Mr. *Weſley* 'replied, 'If you are not ſure of it, you "are damn'd already.' 'This, ſhe ſaid,

'ſo

'ſo terrified her, being then with Child 'that ſhe was afraid ſhe ſhould have miſ-'carried; and that it affected her to a 'great Degree for ſome time after.

'Mr. *Weſley*, ſhe ſaid, and ſome of his 'Followers had talked there about the 'Apoſtles travelling to preach the Goſpel 'without being at any Expence, and ſig-'nified their Expectation of being enter-'tain'd themſelves in the ſame Manner, 'as they went about with the ſame De-'ſign; which made her unwilling to 'receive any more ſuch Gueſts into her 'Houſe.

'Mrs. *Morgan*, being then aſk'd ſome 'Queſtions about ſome indecent Converſa-'tion which Mr. *Weſley* was ſaid to have 'had with a Maid of hers, replied, "That "Mr. *Weſley* had indeed ſaid Things to "one of her Maids, which were very "improper to be ſpoken to a young Girl, "and eſpecially by a Clergyman;" but 'ſhe ſeem'd reſerv'd as to enlarging upon 'Particulars.

'This was the Subſtance of what paſſed 'between his Lordſhip and Mrs. *Morgan* 'concerning Mr. *Weſley*, as far as we can 'recollect, after the moſt ſerious Conſide-'ration, at ſuch a Diſtance of Time.

'That his Lordſhip, or either of us, 'ſent for Mrs. *Morgan* to the Gentleman's 'Houſe where we dined, and there aſked 'theſe Queſtions, we aver to be abſolutely 'falſe.

'The Truth of all this is now jointly 'atteſted by us,

Feb. 27. 1552. 'JOHN FURSMAN, *Chancellor* 'of the Church of Exeter.
'WILL. HOLE, *Archdeacon of* 'Barum.'

'*N. B.* That the ſaid *Weſley*, whom 'Mrs. *Morgan* ſpoke of to his Lord-'ſhip, was Mr. *John Weſley*, the 'noted Methodiſt-Preacher, I then 'apprehended, and ſtill do.

Feb. 27, 1752. 'JOHN FURSMAN, *Chancellor* 'of the Church of Exeter.'

To this *ample Teſtimony* I beg Leave to add a *Letter* to a Friend of mine, from a *Clergyman* in the Neighbourhood of *Mitchel*; whereby it appears that ſhe ſtill adheres to the Account which ſhe gave to *me*. How far ſhe adheres to the Account

count given, as you ſay, to *you*, will ſoon appear.

'*St. Enoder, Jan.* 28, 1752.

'*Honoured Sir*,

'I received your Favour laſt *Saturday* 'Evening, and I went to *Mitchel*, and 'talk'd with Mrs. and Mr. *Morgan* about 'the Affair mentioned in your Letter: 'Mrs. *Morgan* ſays, that Mr. *J. Weſley* 'formerly came to her Houſe, and aſked 'her, 'Whether ſhe had an Aſſurance of 'her Salvation?' She anſwered him, "That ſhe hoped ſhe ſhould be ſaved, but "had not an abſolute Aſſurance thereof.' "Why then, replied he, you are in Hell; "you are damn'd already.' Mrs. *Morgan*, 'being then with Child, was ſo much ter-'rified at this, that ſhe was very much 'afraid of miſcarrying, and was not well 'for many Days after. Mr. *Morgan*, being 'then abſent, upon his coming home, 'and finding his Wife very much diſor-'dered, and upon his aſking her the Oc-'caſion thereof, was told by her as above, 'and does aſſure me that his Wife was not 'well for a long Time after, and that he 'alſo was afraid ſhe would miſcarry. Mrs. '*Morgan* ſays farther, That Mr. *J. Weſley* 'ſome Time ago ſaid to a Maid of hers, 'ſuch Things as were not fit to be ſpoken

'by any Man, but more eſpecially by a 'Clergyman.

'As to the Methodiſts aſking to live 'upon Free-Coſt, this was ſpoken to Mr. '*Morgan* by Mr. *J. Weſley* and others of 'them, whom Mr. *Morgan* anſwered thus, "If I was to do ſo, I ſhould not be able "to pay my Rent, and for my Malt, *&c.*' 'They replied to him, That our Saviour 'and his Apoſtles uſed to be entertained by 'their Hoſts gratis, and that he need not 'doubt but that God would pay him: 'Upon this he determined to admit no 'more of them into his Houſe. Mr. *Mor-* 'gan ſays farther, That Mr. *J. Weſley* 'did or ſaid ſuch indecent Things to the 'above-named Maid in his Chamber, and 'in the Night, that ſhe immediately ran 'down Stairs, and proteſted that ſhe 'would not go near him, nor any of the 'Methodiſts more, even tho' he ſhould 'that Moment diſcharge her, and turn 'her out of his Houſe.'

'*Honoured Sir,*

'*Your moſt obedient and obliged*

'*Humble Servant,*

'THO. BENNET.'

After

After this, Mr. *Bennet* was desired to go directly to Mrs. *Morgan*, and ask her the Question, Whether or no she did really give that Account to Mr. *Wesley*, which he hath published? He accordingly went, and sends her *Answer* in the following *Letter*.

'*St. Enoder, March* 4, 1752.

'*Honoured Sir*,

'Yesterday I went into *Mitchel*, in order 'to talk with Mr. and Mrs. *Morgan*: The 'former not being at home, I began thus 'with the latter: 'Mrs. *Morgan*, do you "remember that about *August* last was "Twelvemonth Mr. *John Wesley*, Mr. "*Trembath* of *St. Gennys*, and Mr. *Haines* "of *Shaftsbury* called at your House?' 'She answered me, 'Sir, I do remember "that Mr. *John Wesley*, and others (the "Names of whom I can't tell) did call at "my House about that Time, by some "very particular Circumstances; for, my "Husband attending on some other Busi-"ness, I was obliged to be in the Field, "looking after my Work-People, who "were reaping Corn; and I was sent for "in all Haste to come home, and then "was told by my Servant that I was "wanted above Stairs; where when I came,

"the

" the Chamber-Door being open, I found " them round the Table on their Knees; " they ſoon riſing out of that Poſture, Mr. " *John Weſley* aſked me, ' Did you, or " your Huſband, ever tell the Biſhop, or " any other Perſon, that I attempted to " *debauch* a Maid of yours?' I told him, " That I never ſaid ſuch a Word to any " one, and that I believed my Huſband " never did.' As to the other Parts of ' Mr. *Weſley*'s Letter to the Biſhop, ſhe ' declares 'tis all falſe, and will be ready ſo ' to do to Mr. *Weſley* himſelf, or to any ' other Perſon whatever, at any Time.

' I am,

' *Honoured Sir*,

' *Your moſt obliged, &c.*

' THOMAS BENNET.'

This, Sir, is *ex abundanti*, and more than was needful. The only Point I was to prove is this, that Mrs. *Morgan* did really give that Account to me, which was publiſhed on *my Authority*. This hath been done effectually. And more *Certificates* I could eaſily produce to the ſame Purpoſe.

Should Mr. *Trembath* and Mr. *Haines* bear Teſtimony to every Word of *your Account*;

count; however our two ſeveral Accounts may *vary* in all, or any of the Particulars; or even be *irreconcileably different*; — 'Tis no Concern of *mine*. I leave the Matter to thoſe, who have a better Knack at *reconciling Contradictions*.

The *Remainder* of your *Epiſtle*, mere *Rant* and *Declamation*, ſhall give me no Trouble. Having cleared up a *Matter of Fact*, which might be thought neceſſary for my *own Juſtification*, I find myſelf under no Obligation, or Diſpoſition, to enter into *Matters of Diſpute*, wherein our Opinions would widely differ. I am too ſenſible of your Way of Anſwering, your Temper, and *what Manner of Spirit you are of*, to think of any farther Correſpondence: And if you expect that I ſhould *let myſelf down to a Level with you*, you will find yourſelf miſtaken.

I pray *God* to give you a *good Will*, and *a right Judgment in all Things*; and am,

SIR,

Your Obedient

Humble Servant,

G. EXON.

FINIS.

may; however, out two Several Accounts may vary in all, or any of the Particulars; or even be irreconcilably different; — This is no Concern of mine. I leave the Matter to them, who have a better Knack at reconciling Contradictions.

The Remainder of your Letter, more Rant and Declamation, shall give me no Trouble. Having cleared up a Matter of Fact, which might be thought Necessary for my own Justification, I find myself under no Obligation, or Disposition, to enter into Matters of Opinion, wherein our Opinions would widely differ. I am too foolish for your Way of Answering; your Temper, and what Manner of Spirit you are of, to think of any further Correspondence: And if you expect that I should let myself down to a Level with you, you will find yourself mistaken.

I pray God to give you a real Will, and a right Judgment in all Things; and am,

S I R,

Your

C. Jones.